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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1700**

**PATENT**

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

JUNE 24, 2004  
Date

Carolyn L. Ross  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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7/15/04*

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| Appl. No. : 09/915,658   | Confirmation No. : 9163        |
| Applicants : Gundu M. Sabde and Whonchee Lee   |                                |
| Filed : July 25, 2001  | Attorney Docket No.: 500163.04 |
| Art Unit : 1765  | Customer No. : 27,076          |
| Examiner : Kin-Chan Chen   |                                |
| Title : METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR PLANARIZING MICROELETRONIC<br>SUBSTRATE ASSEMBLIES |                                |

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated April 26, 2004.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.